

Message for U.S. Citizens – U.S. Embassy, Quito, Ecuador

Wet Season Results in Disease and Road Closures in Coastal Ecuador

February 1, 2012

The [U.S. Embassy in Quito](#) advises U.S. citizens living or traveling in Ecuador that, due to stronger-than-anticipated rains in coastal Ecuador over the last few weeks, you should be aware of weather-related hazards currently affecting the Ecuadorian coast.

Reports of Dengue Fever & Malaria in Coastal Ecuador

There have been nearly 300 cases of dengue, including the more severe dengue hemorrhagic fever, in coastal Ecuador since January 1. The majority of the cases have been located in the provinces of Guayas, Manabi, and Los Rios; cases have also been reported in El Oro and Esmeraldas. There have been also been six cases of malaria reported in the provinces of Esmeraldas and Los Rios.

Both diseases are transmitted by mosquitoes, so whenever possible U.S. citizens in Ecuador should take measures to avoid being bitten. U.S. citizens living in Ecuador should inspect their properties for standing water, which is where mosquitoes breed. In the event you develop symptoms of dengue (high fever, joint pain, severe headache, and/or rash), you should avoid taking painkillers that contain aspirin and consult with a physician immediately.

The Centers for Disease Control have detailed information about both malaria and dengue on their website, located at cdc.gov/malaria and cdc.gov/dengue.

Road Closures throughout Ecuador

As the wet season begins, all U.S. citizen travelers should be advised of the potential for road closures due to flooding and landslides. Recently, roads have been severely flooded or damaged near Machala and Loja as a result of heavy rains. With limited options for alternate routes, the flooding has disrupted travel on the major highway between Guayaquil and Machala for short periods of time. Damaged

secondary roads, particularly in rural areas, may take days or weeks to be repaired. When traveling by land, all travelers should seek out up-to-date information about the status of roads and bridges from local authorities and/or the Ecuadorian media and be prepared for unexpected delays while traveling.

Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to enroll with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate in order to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador through the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#).

U.S. citizens should consult the [Country Specific Information](#) for Ecuador and the latest Travel Alerts and Warnings and Worldwide Caution at the [Department's website](#). Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

The [U.S. Embassy in Quito](#) is located at Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro.

- The telephone number for American Citizen Service (ACS) inquiries is (011 593-2) 398-5000. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls.
- Public call-in hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. and Friday 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- For after-hours emergencies, contact the Embassy at (011 593-2) 398-5200.
- Appointments for ACS are available through our [website](#).

The [U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil](#) is located at the corner of Avenida 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno (near the Hotel Oro Verde).

- The telephone number for ACS inquiries is (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or 232-1152 for after-hours emergencies.

Anyone can follow the activities of the U.S. Embassy in Ecuador through the [Embassy website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).